

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 IGA-02 /101 W
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P R 231513Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8751

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL GOTEBOG BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 5243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UNGA, SW

SUBJECT: CALL ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL

1. I CALLED ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL SVERKER ASTROM
ON SEPTEMBER 23 TO DISCUSS HIS REACTIONS TO THE
SEPTEMBER 19 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS AS THEY MIGHT
AFFECT OR INFLUENCE SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY.

2. ASTROM RECALLED THAT THE GENERAL LINES OF
SWEDISH POLICY HAVE CONSISTENTLY RECEIVED
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UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM THE RIKSDAG AND IT WAS MOST

UNLIKELY THAT THE BASICS OF FOREIGN POLICY WOULD UNDERGO CHANGE. SWEDEN'S TIES TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY THROUGH ITS ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP WOULD NOT BE ALTERED NOR WOULD BILATERAL AND OTHER MULTILATERAL TIES WITH THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND WESTERN EUROPE GENERALLY.

3. ASTROM CONTINUED THAT IN HIS OPINION IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE NEW SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO MAKE AN EARLY PUBLIC STATEMENT, HOPEFULLY WITHIN THE UN CONTEXT, TO REASSURE INTERESTED PARTIES, PARTICULARLY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, THAT SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY, NEUTRALITY AND SECURITY POLICY ENJOYED NATIONAL SUPPORT AND WOULD NOT BE ALTERED AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT. WHILE NOT DIFFERING WITH THIS CONCLUSION, I INQUIRED WHETHER THERE WOULD NOT BE, NEVERTHELESS, CHANGES IN SWEDISH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE POLICY AND CHANGE PERHAPS IN THE RHETORIC WHICH HAS OFTEN ACCOMPANIED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOREIGN POLICY. ASTROM RATHER QUICKLY POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS LIKELY TO BE SOME RECONSIDERATION OF FOREIGN AID RECIPIENTS, BUT THIS WOULD NOT BECOME CLEAR PROBABLY UNTIL THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET WAS PRESENTED TO THE RIKSDAG IN JANUARY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE 1 PERCENT OF GNP GOAL FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WHICH SWEDEN HAS REACHED WOULD NOT BE MODIFIED BY THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT. WITH REGARD TO AID TO CUBA, ASTROM POINTED OUT THAT LIBERAL PARTY CHAIRMAN PER AHLMARK IN THE LAST MAJOR RIKSDAG DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO SUPPORTED THE OPPOSITION'S DEMAND FOR REDUCTION IN SUCH AID ONLY WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE AND ONLY TO PREVENT DIVISIONS WITHIN THE OPPOSITION ON THE QUESTION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, ASTROM SAID THERE WOULD BE VERY FEW PERSONNEL CHANGES AT THE MFA AS A RESULT OF THE ELECTION AND HE DID NOT CARE TO IDENTIFY WHO MIGHT BE LEAVING. (LATER, HOWEVER, LARS AKE NILSSON, MFA NORTH AMERICAN DESK OFFICER, CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDED THAT MOST CERTAINLY LENNART KLOCKENBERG AND GERTRUD SIGURDSEN OF THE MFA FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OFFICE AS WELL AS MANFRED NILSSON OF THE INFORMATION DIVISION WOULD BE LEAVING VERY SOON.) ASTROM SAID HE HAD NO IDEA WHO MIGHT BE APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER UNDER FALLDIN. I POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESS WAS RATHER INSISTENTLY MENTIONING JOHANNES ANTONSSON, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTER PARTY, AND

GUNNAR HELEN, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBERAL PARTY AS PROBABLE CANDIDATES. I SAID FURTHER THAT IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT NEITHER OF THESE TWO POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS HAD HAD INVOLVEMENT OR EVEN DEEP INTEREST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. NODDING AGREEMENT, ASTROM SAID THIS WAS GENERALLY TRUE, ALTHOUGH ANTONSSON IN THE RIKSDAG HAD FOLLOWED FOREIGN POLICY DEBATES VERY CLOSELY AND HAD EXPRESSED HIMSELF RATHER FORCEFULLY LAST DECEMBER IN THE RIKSDAG ON THE NEED FOR SWEDEN TO IMPOSE UNILATERALLY VERY STRICT CONDITIONS ON THE EXPORT SALES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT, MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS THAN WERE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP.

5. ASTROM CONFIRMED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT MOST LIKELY WOULD BE INSTALLED IN OFFICE ON OCTOBER 8. HE SAID HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOR THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER TO GO TO NEW YORK VERY SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND MAKE A STATEMENT BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE UNGA GENERAL DEBATE ON OCTOBER 12 OR 13. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, HE WOULD URGE THE NEW MAN TO SPEND SEVERAL WEEKS IN NEW YORK LATER IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER.

SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STOCKH05243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760359-0940
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760925/aaaaavtc.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SW, UNGA, (ASTROM, SVERKER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006